

MAXIMS of MUSTAFAVEE

**By
Kamal Mustafa Mustafavee**

**Edited by
Terry Wiley**

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Foreword

It was 1995 when I penned some of my thoughts on paper for the first time. Then followed a long silence until the time I was exposed to the world of English Literature during my graduation years, 2003-04, at the University of Sindh. Most of my maxims were written in those two years. However, I still write when I feel like it and some of the maxims in this collection are very recent.

Mustafavee is my adopted pen-name and the maxims given in the following pages are a collection of my personal observations about various themes and aspects of life. All of my maxims are individual thoughts, written in different moods and times. Some of them are light, just meant to trigger a smile or laughter, and some of them are severe in nature, written in all seriousness to share what I have felt and understood about life after some reflection.

I have not committed my thoughts on paper to prove that I am a thinker or philosopher. Rather, it is just a humble effort to demonstrate that I am in the habit of thinking things through and I like to share how I see them. I hope readers will enjoy my maxims and send me their feedback.

April 30, 2014
Kotri

Kamal Mustafa Buriro

To my friend, Terry Wiley,
to whom I am indebted for his invaluable advice
and editorial hand.

MAXIMS of MUSTAFAVEE

You and I shall die; only ideas and thoughts will live.

MAXIMS of MUSTAFAVEE

1. True beauty lies in thoughts, manners and attitudes.
2. Be friendly to all; befriend a few.
3. Blessed are those who have found the truth.
4. High expectations cause high falls.
5. Your mistakes are the best lessons of your life, and
your failures, the best experiences.

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6. Love has a beginning but no end.
7. The hopeful are successful; the hopeless are always
helpless.
8. Speak of beauty; ugliness has already been discussed
too much.
9. The selfish are semi-human.
10. Praise-worthy people never praise themselves nor do
they desire to be praised by others.

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11. Eyes are the best spokesmen for two lovers.

12. Respect and be respected.

13. If you want to rise among men, you must first rise
above yourself.

14. Hope is life; despair is death.

15. A mind is measured by the questions it raises and
the answers it offers.

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16. Love is the name of total surrender--physical, intellectual and spiritual.
17. The greedy are not greeted anywhere.
18. Truth is always transparent. It has no clouds of confusion in or around it.
19. Inner beauty is seen with an inner eye.
20. Friendship is begun with liking, furthered with understanding, and maintained with respect.

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- 21. A woman is a test which every man has to take.
- 22. Life is the name of hope, faith and struggle.
- 23. It is entirely imperfect to expect perfection in this
imperfect world.
- 24. The idler and addict are respected nowhere.
- 25. You cannot hope for any good, where fools are
favored and the competent are condemned.

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26. Love is a unifying source. It unifies hearts, minds,
bodies and souls.
27. Modesty is the richest policy.
28. Say “NO” when you ought to or you will have to pay
the price of “YES”.
29. Work is life; idleness is death.
30. You cannot claim to have learnt a language unless
you are able to think, dream and tell a joke in it.

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- 31. Your choice of words reveals your character and caliber.
- 32. Those who look back don't move ahead.
- 33. Bias is a blindfold which prevents a person from seeing things as they are.
- 34. Those who do not have pity are pitiable.
- 35. Your true qualities are those which are acknowledged by others in your absence.

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36. Love is not a lollipop that can be bought and sold.
37. Greed is a goal which is never achieved.
38. Selfless friendSHIP sails smoothly, selfish friendSHIP
sinks eventually.
39. Be good and do good for your own good.
40. If you want to find a permanent place in the minds
of people, do permanent things.

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- 41. One who claims to be somebody is usually nobody.
- 42. Idiots are identified by their speech.
- 43. Great minds simplify things; poor minds confuse and complicate them.
- 44. The secret of success lies in discipline.
- 45. It is a great irony that Man created money but today it is worshipped by Man himself.

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46. If you are in love, you are lucky; if you are not, you are luckier.
47. It is unbecoming of a teacher to be boring.
48. Marriage: A dream of bachelors; a nightmare for most of the married!
49. Wisdom and worries are old companions.
50. You cannot learn from a person you don't like, even if he is one of the grandest teachers on earth.

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- 51. Life without romance is like food without spice.
- 52. Intention justifies action.
- 53. Faith is the name of an action, not of a statement.
- 54. Infidelity begins with indifference.
- 55. Teaching is a two way street. It doesn't happen until the teacher imparts what he has and the learner gives his feedback.

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- 56. The touch of love either kills or immortalizes.
- 57. Beauty lies in balance.
- 58. Wait for the right person to marry even if you have
to wait for a lifetime.
- 59. Anger ends in “alas!”
- 60. Petty people praise themselves and belittle others;
great people praise others and belittle themselves.

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- 61. People without discipline are people without destination.
- 62. Learn to question; question to learn.
- 63. The Quran is the last warning. It must be taken seriously by all those who believe in God.
- 64. Decline is destined for every mortal.
- 65. A fool who undermines himself is better than the intelligent that undermines others.

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66. One who is far from love is far from life.

67. Brag not when you win; blame not when you lose.

68. Democracy re-defined: A government of the corrupt,
by the corrupt, for the corrupt.

69. Don't let your welcome go stale. Stale things stink.

70. One who always tries to find your faults is no doubt
your foe but remember that one who tells you
your faults is your friend.

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- 71. One who is ignorant of Islam is ignorant of the truth.
- 72. To belittle is the business of little people.
- 73. The longer you lecture, the lesser the impact you leave.
- 74. A secret once shared is no longer a secret.
- 75. Education is a process of instruction and training to
enable a person to read, write and
think on his own.

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76. To my mind, there are five kinds/forms of love:

- i. Natural: love between parents and children
- ii. Material: love for material things i.e. car, dresses
etc
- iii. Physical: love between two bodies
- iv. Intellectual: love between a writer and reader
- v. Spiritual: love between two souls

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77. Measure of a Teacher

Thirst

Education

Accountability

Character

Honesty

Earnestness

Resoluteness

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78. Quality education is expensive. But remember, at the end of the day, it pays you more than you pay for it.
79. In third-world countries, "Democracy" is the best excuse for looting and plundering "public property".
80. Alas! Human values have reversed: the rich is righteous; might is right; flatterers are victors and the honest are outlaws.

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81. A book is a friend which is always open to you.

82. Your intentions, decisions and actions determine
your destiny.

83. Untimely marriage is as bad as untimely death.

84. An undisciplined worker usually finishes before
his work does.

85. It is your aspirations and efforts that land you in
small and great places.

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86. Silent love is truer and deeper than spoken love.

87. Life without principles is life without honor and
dignity.

88. Sleeping ones only dream to win; working ones
win and walk on.

89. Unless you know the worst, you cannot recognize
the best.

90. Take care of small expenditures; the big ones will
automatically be taken care of.

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91. When things become expensive in a society, people become “cheap”.

92. Teach what you know; learn what you don't.

93. It is easy to lose one's heart but difficult to capture another's.

94. Foul play and friendship cannot go together.

95. Youth can well be described as “energy” and energy requires outlets. If there aren't any in a society, there will be problems.

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- 96. Love and ego cannot co-exist in a person, for the former tells to surrender and the later to fight.
- 97. Perfection is obtained through perspiration.
- 98. Adolescence is the time when geese appear to be swans.
- 99. Frequent visitors are welcomed infrequently.
- 100. The fool lived and died a fool: one who spoke of wisdom but did not know his God.

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101. Let your higher self guide and govern you or the lower self WILL.

102. Sharing lessens the suffering.

103. Fashion your fashion according to your faith and tradition.

104. Patience is always paid in full.

105. It is not age or sex but experience and exposure that make the difference between people.

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106. It is hard to hide love, because love highlights itself.

107. One thing you cannot do away with is your destiny.

108. Arguments can win you points, but not people.

109. Great people deliver actions; the small, only slogans.

110. A man accepts the supremacy of a man, but a woman
never does the same.

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- 111. Jealousy is a fire that burns the bearer first and
others later
- 112. A bad beginning brings about worse end.
- 113. Those who know obedience know no arguments.
- 114. Lust is a hell fire; it can't be extinguished.
- 115. A fool keeps his mouth shut when he is supposed
to open it and opens it when it is time to shut it.

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116. Those who love not nor desire to be loved are anything but human.
117. Hopelessness gives birth to faithlessness.
118. Westerners' ignorance of Islam is unmistakable, and their insularity, laughable.
119. Silence is golden but sometimes it is a sin.
120. No education can change the fate of people who do not hold their teachers in respect.

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121. The neater you commit things on paper the clearer they become in your mind.
122. Those who listen more learn more.
123. Stay away from where truth is not accepted and beauty is not admired.
124. Waiting is the worst of experiences.
125. When the righteous rule, the mischievous suffer, and when the mischievous rule, the righteous suffer.

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126. In love there is no room for “No.”
127. The smallest action is better than the loudest slogan.
128. A good teacher is never short of examples.
129. Believe and trust those who do not beg you to do so.
130. Wisdom that questions the Unquestionable One puts
itself into question.

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131. Man is measured by the words he uses and the actions he does.

132. Money makes people mad and mischievous.

133. God's guidance is granted to those who truly desire it.

134. Silence increases the sobriety of one's speech.

135. The first report of a marriage comes out after five years, the second after ten, and the third after fifteen. If all three reports are good, only then you can declare the marriage successful.

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136. Love is the sport of the brave; cowards do not join in.
137. Your final destination depends upon your beliefs.
138. Feel free to befriend an out-spoken person but make sure that you marry a soft-spoken one.
139. Temporary benefit can bring about permanent loss.
140. You can right the wrongs of people with politeness and wisdom, but with rigidity and force you can only add to their stubbornness.

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141. Happiness is something that you share, not that you treasure.

142. Avarice avoided is an Everest achieved.

143. Future is for those who heed the present and learn from the past.

144. Ignorance is better than bad information.

145. Keep a smile on the face and most of your issues with people around you will either cease to exist or be sorted out easily.

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146. Love is not to be inquired into or explained; it is to be experienced and understood.

147. Change your today before it becomes your tomorrow.

148. The meaning of life is to know God and His plan, and then to respond it.

149. Your behavior towards the weak shows your strength.

150. Those who think of galaxies will one day become part of them. And those who think only of earth will one day become a part of it.

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